

JESUS HUMAN, ALIVE, REAL

THE HUMANITY OF JESUS

In Jesus' humanity, we find inspiration, strength, and grace. As we contemplate the biblical narrative about Jesus' childhood, we find family life threatened by the violence of imperial powers and their representatives. Lives threatened, necessary flight; refugees, poverty, and lack of social protection. Situations present today in our contexts...



REFLECTION

Jonathan's story is set in the context of the migration of two previous generations of his family, who moved from Paraíba to the outskirts of Rio de Janeiro in search of better living conditions. However, the family's situation changed little. Jonathan grew up in an environment marked by social vulnerability and the presence of organized crime, which is evident in his mother's involvement with drug traffickers, while he was cared for by his grandmother. This vulnerability deepened when his home was destroyed by a fire due to poor housing conditions, resulting in a new displacement. In this scenario, Sister Liria Haefliger—a Teresian and Child Pastoral Agent—committed herself to accompanying many families, including Jonathan's, providing support through home visits and nutritional monitoring; manufacturing and supplying a mixture that acts as a food supplement; and occasional food donations, aiming to reduce food insecurity. Jhonatan became very close friends with Sister Líría. Despite the adverse context, he overflowed with joy and affection. From the age of four, Jhonatan arrived alone and motivated to participate in recreational-educational activities and socialize with other children. Everything ended with a delicious collective snack. The work continued, and a few years later, Sister Líría returned to the region for a quick visit and was able to see that Jhonatan, now grown and strong, continued to anchor himself in the web of life.

Both in the account of Jesus' childhood and in Jhonatan's story, despite adversity, the Divine Ruah becomes a companion on the journey, pointing out the path where the thread of life passes. It also brings together people who are passionate and committed to caring for life, especially those who are most threatened and unprotected.



TEXT FROM THE WORD MT 2, 1-23

When they saw the star, the wise men were filled with joy. Then they entered the house and saw the child with Mary, his mother. And, prostrating themselves, they worshiped him. They opened their coffers and offered him gold, frankincense, and myrrh. Then, warned in a dream not to return to Herod, they went back to their country by another route.



CHARISMATIC TEXT ST. TERESA OF JESUS. V22

It is clear to me: one must seek the Creator through his creatures. (V 22.8). What does not seem right to me is that we intentionally accustom ourselves not to seek, with all our strength, to always have this most sacred Humanity before our eyes.

To do so is to have one's soul in the air, without support, no matter how full of God one thinks one is. (V 22.9). We are not angels, for we have a body; to want to be an angel while on earth is nonsense! (V 22.10).

Do not desire another path, even if you are at the height of contemplation; the best model is to contemplate the life of His Majesty (V 22.7).

Consider when you are dealing with business, persecution, suffering, and times of dryness, Christ is a very good friend, for we see Him as a Man, with weaknesses and sufferings, and we remain in His company (V 22.10).

What more could we want than such a good friend by our side, who does not let us go through suffering and tribulations alone, unlike those of the world?

After I understood this, I noticed that some saints did not follow another path! (V 22.7).

QUESTIONS FOR PRAYER

How can I remain attentive to the humanity around me, recognizing faces and lives that are threatened, and accompanying them with closeness and tenderness, as Jesus did and as the Teresian Sisters do?

How can I become a friend to those who suffer, sharing their journey and being present without judging or imposing, following the example of the human Christ?

What strengths and weaknesses in me can open me to trust in the guidance of the Divine Spirit amid the adversities of daily life?

Am I willing to "be Teresian" in my daily life, that is, to love and care for life with creativity, joy, and commitment, even in the most fragile or challenging contexts?



Closing prayer

Oh, Divine Tenderness...

I want to be part of this enveloping embrace that imprints a way of being and loving; that brings me faces and stories that awaken so many memories!

I thank you for the gift planted in my heart of being called to care for, promote, and defend human dignity.

To be called to "be Teresian," to love, and to reinvent the best version of myself each day.

Amen

